

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) An adapter for connecting a hose to a hose receptacle of an object in a locking relationship, the adapter comprising:

a first end adapted to be fixedly attached to ~~one of the hose receptacle or the hose,~~

the first end including a plurality of flaps extending outwardly therefrom,

the flaps adapted to engage the hose; and

a second end having a first locking element adapted to selectively engage a

~~second locking element attached to the hose receptacle to establish a~~

~~locking relationship.~~

2-7. (canceled)

8. (original) An adapter as defined in claim 1, wherein the first locking element includes a post for interlocking with the second locking element.

9. (original) An adapter as defined in claim 1, wherein the first locking element includes a generally U-shaped casing.

10. (original) An adapter as defined in claim 9, wherein the first locking element includes a post traversing the U-shaped casing for interlocking with the second locking element.

11. (currently amended) A hose system for a vacuum appliance having a hose receptacle, the hose system comprising:

a hose having a connection end;

a first locking element connected to the connection end of the hose, the first locking element including a generally U-shaped casing and a post traversing the U-shaped casing; and

an adapter having first and second ends, the first end adapted to be fixedly attached to the hose receptacle, the second end having a second locking element including a locking handle having a tooth for engaging the post adapted to selectively engage the first locking element.

12. (original) A hose system as defined in claim 11, wherein the first end of the adapter includes a plurality of flaps extending outwardly therefrom, the flaps adapted to engage the hose receptacle to fixedly attach the first end to the receptacle.

13-21 (canceled)

Please add the following new claims:

22. (new) A method of converting a friction-based hose receptacle to a locking hose receptacle, comprising permanently attaching to the friction-based hose receptacle an adapter comprising:

a first end comprising a connector for permanently attaching the adapter to the hose receptacle such that when so attached the friction-based hose receptacle is converted into a locking hose receptacle; and

a second end comprising a first locking element adapted to selectively engage a second locking element to establish a locking relationship.

23. (new) An adapter for connecting a hose to a hose receptacle in a locking relationship, the adapter comprising:

a first end comprising a connector for permanently attaching the adapter to the friction-based hose receptacle such that when so attached the friction-based hose receptacle is converted into a locking hose receptacle; and
a second end comprising a first locking element adapted to selectively engage a second locking element to establish a locking relationship.

24. (new) An adapter as defined in claim 23, wherein the hose comprises a second locking element, such that the hose is selectively connectable to the second end of the adapter in a locking relationship.

25. (new) An adapter as defined in claim 23, wherein the connector comprises a plurality of flaps extending outwardly from the first end.

26. (new) An adapter as defined in claim 23, wherein the first locking element comprises a post for interlocking with the second locking element.

27. (new) An adapter as defined in claim 26, wherein the second locking element comprises a locking handle having a tooth for engaging the post.

28. (new) An adapter for connecting a hose to a hose receptacle in a locking relationship, the adapter comprising:

a first end comprising a plurality of flaps extending outwardly therefrom, the flaps adapted to engage the friction-based hose receptacle to permanently attach the adapter to the friction-based hose receptacle such that when so attached the friction-based hose receptacle is converted into a locking hose receptacle; and

a second end comprising a first locking element adapted to selectively engage a second locking element to establish a locking relationship.

29. (new) An adapter as defined in claim 28, wherein the hose comprises a second locking element, such that the hose is selectively connectable to the second end of the adapter in a locking relationship.

30. (new) An adapter as defined in claim 28, wherein the first locking element comprises a post for interlocking with the second locking element.

31. (new) An adapter as defined in claim 30, wherein the second locking element comprises a locking handle having a tooth for engaging the post.

32. (new) A hose system for a vacuum appliance comprising a friction-based hose receptacle, the hose system comprising:

an adapter comprising first and second ends, the first end comprising a connector for permanently attaching the adapter to the friction-based hose receptacle such that when so attached the friction-based hose receptacle is converted to a locking hose receptacle, and the second end comprising a first locking element adapted to selectively engage a second locking element to establish a locking relationship; and

a hose comprising a connection end, the connection end comprising the second locking element.

33. (new) An adapter as defined in claim 32, wherein the connector comprises a plurality of flaps extending outwardly from the first end.

34. (new) An adapter as defined in claim 32, wherein the first locking element comprises a post for interlocking with the second locking element.

35. (new) An adapter as defined in claim 34, wherein the second locking element comprises a locking handle having a tooth for engaging the post.